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WEEKLY BULLETIN

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Volume XXII

DETROIT, MICHIGAN, APRIL 6, 1948

No 14

Contractor Views General Conditions, Specs.

A talk by Leo P. Richardson, Secretary-Treasurer, W. E. Wood Co., at the Michigan Society of Architects 34th Annual Convention, Detroit, March 4, 1948.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Michigan Society of Architects and Guests:

This is indeed a pleasure, for a General Contractor to have that rare privilege of talking to as distinguished a group of Architects as are represented here today, and discussing some of the problems of the construction industry from a Contractor's point of view.

I can't help but feel very much like the bantam rooster who stepped into the barnyard where there were several horses, and the bantam rooster said, "Now, fellows, let's be careful not to step on each other." I'll try not to step on anybody's toes.

The subject assigned to me—"A Contractor's View of General Conditions and Specifications." With only ten minutes allotted, obviously I can't go into much detail; therefore, I will mention only a few of the clauses which would seem to merit discussion.

1. STANDARD DOCUMENTS

If I can get over to this group just one thought, it would be an accomplishment well worth while. The General Contractors country-wide want to know why the Standard Documents of the American Institute of Architects are not more universally used by the Architects. Speaking particularly of the General Conditions, here is a document that has the approval of the American Institute of Architects, the Associated General Contractors of America, and eight other national associations, and on which committees from these groups have spent weeks, months and years in developing a document which in the opinion of these groups was fair to the owner, architect and contractor. In spite of all this, the majority of specifications ignore them entirely, many more refer to them and then proceed to emasculate by qualifications. A few Architects use them as intended, and to them I take off my hat. We appreciate that there are some special conditions necessary on a specific job, but these should be limited to such special conditions. We do not feel that

the standard documents are perfect by any means, but there is an honest attempt to be fair to all parties concerned. Why aren't they more universally used?

1-A. BIDDING PRACTICE

The Committee on Contract Documents of the A.I.A. and a special committee from the A.G.C. have prepared a document entitled, "A Suggested Guide to Bidding Procedure." This document will be distributed in the near future to members of both the Institute and Association.

2. DELAYS BY OWNER

Many General Conditions specify that when delay in work is caused by Owner or by contractors having contract direct with owner, the general contractor will be granted an extension of time only, but no reimbursement to General Contractor because of extra cost and expense due to such delays. We as Contractors feel that our gamble is high enough when we bid a lump-sum job, without being penalized by Owner's delays, and should be reimbursed for additional cost.

3. SHIFTING OF ARCHITECT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO GENERAL CONTRACTOR

I will probably be stepping on someone's toes on this one. I refer to the more or less standard clause wherein it is stated that the general contractor is to deliver a completed building even though certain items are not called for on plans or in specifications. An ar-

chitect spends weeks and months—possibly more than a year—preparing plans and specifications for a certain project. Contractors are asked to submit a bid in about ten days or two weeks. If the architect didn't find any omissions in the months taken to prepare the plans and specifications, how does he expect the bidder to find them in two weeks when the bidder is tearing his hair trying to assemble a bid within the specified time?

4. LISTING SUBCONTRACTORS

Contractors should not be required to list either subcontractors or amounts included for subcontractors in his bid. Specifications are very careful to say that there are no contractual relations between the owner and subcontractor. If that is the case, why should there be any indirect relationship between the architect and subcontractor? We pride ourselves on being general contractors, and all we have to sell an architect or owner is our ability to deliver a building according to plans and specifications drawn by the architect, and are willing to assume full responsibility for fulfilling the contract. This gives the owner and architect one person or firm to look to for performance. I know some of the arguments, that the general contractor peddles the sub bids, or the architect does not like some certain subcontractor. Again I say it is the sole responsibility of the general contractor to deliver according to plans and specifications and he should have a free hand in perform-

ance of his contract. As far as peddling is concerned, it always gives me a pain in the tummy when the subs wail about a general contractor peddling his bids. Of course, it is done in some instances, but who is to blame? No-one but the subs themselves. In many, many instances as soon as the name of the successful general contractor is announced, subs will rush in and say, "We didn't give you our best price," "We can give you a deduction," or "We made a mistake and would like to make a correction." Sub trades shouldn't ask

or expect the general contractor to straighten out their bidding practices. A general contractor in preparing his bid usually gets his real bids from subs an hour or two before general contractor's bid goes to the Architect. Time does not permit investigation of all the sub bidders, and the general contractor should be permitted to use his own discretion after full investigation of his sub bidders, and it often happens that after all factors are considered the general contractor will not award to the lowest sub bidder.

5. Many specifications specify both the method to be used and the results to be obtained for a given piece of work. We feel this is placing an undue burden on the general contractor and the architect should specify the results required and leave it to the general contractor to accomplish that result. An experienced contractor often knows more about accomplishing a given result than the Architect.

6. Some architects require that contractors return plans and specifications with bid. We feel that the Contractor should be permitted to retain plans and specifications until such time as he is notified that he is not being considered in the awarding of contract.

7. The American Institute of Architects General Conditions and many others provide that owner will carry fire insurance on building during construction. This should be amended to read "fire and extended coverage," which includes lightning, windstorm, hail, civil commotion, etc. Any prudent contractor wants this coverage, and it is at times difficult and costly to get extended coverage separate from fire coverage.

8. ARBITRATION

We as Contractors feel that every contract for construction should provide for arbitration in case of dispute. With arbitration provided for, we would not look with so much apprehension on that disingenuous clause, "the decision of the Architect will be final and binding."

IN CONCLUSION

There are many more items in the General Conditions which we feel could be improved upon, and many meetings have been held to that end, but without appreciable concrete results. Your specifications today are nearly fifty per cent General Conditions, and it would appear that over a period of years there has been a real competition among some architects to see who could tie up the contractor the tightest, and believe me, gentlemen, it's getting a little rugged. One has to be an optimist to be a general contractor, and because I am

an optimist I firmly believe that differences of opinion between segments of the industry can be adjusted, and to me one of the most hopeful signs is your very kind invitation to contractors to be present here today.

The following paragraphs from the American Institute of Architects' "Suggested Guide to Bidding Procedure" were quoted by L. P. Richardson during the discussion that followed his talk:

USE OF STANDARD DOCUMENTS

The Standard A.I.A. Form of Agreement and General Conditions (latest edition) should be used in all contracts, with such additional general and special conditions as each contract may require.

(See RICHARDSON—page 7)

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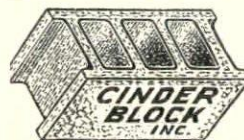
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Woods Theatre, Grosse Pointe Woods, Mich.





At left is shown a view of auditorium, with its unusual lighting scheme, simple but effective decorations.

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At right: Ladies' lounge. Macotta Porcelain Enamel is practically indestructible, is easily maintained.

Woods Theatre Has Outstanding Features

By Charles N. Agree, A.I.A., of Charles N. Agree, Inc., Architects, Detroit.

In the design of the new Woods Theatre, located in Grosse Pointe Woods, suburb of Detroit, there are a few special features to which we would like to call attention as being of special interest to our fellow architects.

We've strived for maximum seating on a single floor to avoid the expense of balcony construction. Though a balcony would make it possible to increase seating capacity, the cost-per-seat ratio would be nearly doubled. To the extra expense of the long, clear span at the front edge and a higher auditorium ceiling, more public space for balcony foyer, access stairs and additional rest room facilities would have to be added. The 2500-seating-capacity rates this as the largest single-floor auditorium, with the necessary physical qualities of sight and hearing for the display of motion pictures, ever built.

The exhibit salon in the main lobby is an attempt to use a part of the public space of the theatre as a focal point of attention for neighborhood and school projects. It may be leased to merchants (two of downtown Detroit's largest department stores have presented fashion displays) to show their merchandise where 25,000 people a week—in a relaxed, leisurely mood may view it. This is the first such display area in any theatre in America. It attracts local interest, hence patronage, and may become an important source of income to the theatre operators.

The building (all-fireproof, steel frame with masonry walls) and equipment cost \$725,000 and covers approximately 28,250 sq. ft. of ground area. This is a cost of approximately \$25.00 per sq. ft. (ground area) or \$290.00 per seat.

The exterior makes use of stone and face brick, to suggest the predominating colonial style of the community. A curved wall of Shawnee limestone, with simple incised-line carving, over the marquee is relieved by a line of natural evergreens at its base. This stone is flanked by face brick pylons. Flood-lighting accentuates the character of this wall.

Red neon script letters, "Woods", crown the billboard marquee, which tilts forward at a slight angle for easier reading from the street level. The brightly-lighted soffitt is of porcelain enamel and stainless steel trim.

The walls of the vestibule and display frames are of cast granite, granux, highly polished and of contrasting color—pearl grey frames against mahogany-red walls. The entrance wall features a line of plate glass doors in stainless steel frames surmounted by panels of textured "rigidized" stainless steel.



EXHIBIT SALON IS DECORATIVE FEATURE IN LOBBY

The floor of the vestibule is varicolored tile in a special design, and is set off by a touch of natural green from a planting area in front of the poster display.

The lobby features a twenty-six-foot-long confections counter and soft-drink bar under a graceful arch of ornamental plaster suggesting a modern treatment of Baroque. A 30-ft.-wide by 15-ft.-deep display area is located on the opposite side. This salon is devoted to the exhibiting of new automobiles and fashions, community or school projects of interest to the patronage. Both arches have gold valences and special lighting.

The walls are of copper cloth hung on plaster and decorated in ribbon motif. The ceiling is almost filled with a large light cove and is painted powder blue. A large white ornamental plaster chandelier hangs from the center of cove and plaster light brackets are features on the wall.

The room is reflected in a flesh-tint mirror spanning the entire wall over the doors to the foyer, and is carpeted in deep red with a grey flower pattern. The same carpeting is carried from the lobby through the foyer and is used for the aisle runners.

The doors to the foyer are rich green Formica with inlaid silver "ribbons" and Lucite plastic hardware. The foyer walls are painted old rose and blue above a maroon linoleum wainscot. The

standee rail is also linoleum-covered, and is surmounted by a glass partition and separated by draperies from the auditorium. The ceiling is pale yellow with large circular light coves combined with air-diffuser outlets. There is a pair of colored porcelain drinking fountains at each side of the foyer (for adults and children).

The auditorium has 2,500 streamlined Encore seats, upholstered in blue mohair. The walls are painted in blue with the "ribbon" motif carried in panels, and blend into the deep red draperies across the front. The ceiling of the auditorium is in dark maroon with two coves in pale yellow lighted by blue, white and red neon dimmers. Telesonic (wireless) hard-of-hearing aids, which may be used from any seat, are incorporated here as the first installation in this section of the country.

On each side of the stage, a bold plaster arch in pure white marks the exit. A "leaping antelope" statue graces the center over these arches. The stage is equipped with footlights and provisions for border lights have been made. The plastic mold screen is one of the largest in this area—thirty feet by twenty-six feet—and may be covered by a gold draw-curtain.

The projection room has been provided with several fire-safety devices and many modern film-handling accessories. There are two large Simplex E-7 projectors and special lenses to

A fresh and dramatic effect in lighting and decoration attains unity throughout the house.

throw a beam of 170 ft. and fill the oversize screen.

The ladies powder room has walls of tan, stippled macotta-porcelain enameled steel on concrete backing—to a height of six feet with the plaster above painted to match. There is a wide stainless steel counter in front of a full-width mirror. The counter stools and lounge furniture are covered with a green plastic fabric. A similar, though less-elaborate, area is used as a men's smoking lounge.

In the toilet rooms, tile floor, marble stall partitions and flush slab doors were used with tan ceramic glazed facing tile on the walls.

A compact office is provided for the manager with private wash room facilities. It is entered directly from the foyer.

In the basement are located the heating equipment and refrigeration compressors. Though heat is by oil, a coal room and openings for an ash hoist were provided for emergency conversion. There is also an incinerator to dispose of confectionery rubbish.

We feel that this theatre owes its successful culmination to the fine co-operative spirit that was shown by all those who worked on the project.



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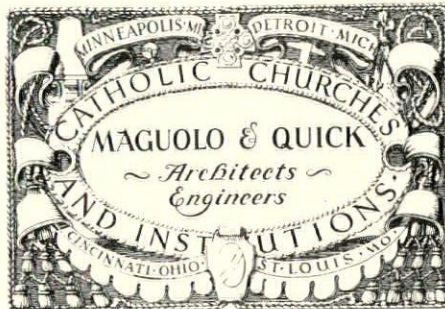
Detroit 12

the Detroit City Welfare Department, and assistant chief inspector for the City of Springwells, Michigan, on all construction projects. Mr. Palmer holds degrees from the University of Michigan.

CORRECTION

In our March 23 issue we announced the change in name of P. M. O'Meara Associates to Maguolo & Quick. We regret that we misspelled Mr. Maguolo's name, and failed to state that the new firm also has offices in St. Louis.

Reproduced below is their announcement.



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U. OF D. FACULTY

The addition of four persons to the faculty of the University of Detroit College of Engineering has been announced by the Very Reverend William J. Millor, S. J. Two are lecturers and two are instructors for the Departments of Civil and Architectural engineering.

In the Department of Architectural Engineering, Mr. Edward G. Rosella, AIA, former member of the University faculty and practicing consulting engineer, will be the instructor. Lecturer in the same department will be Mr. Howard L. Preston, AIA, practicing architect and former major in the United States Engineers Corps. Mr. Rosella is a graduate of the University of Detroit and Mr. Preston holds degrees in architectural engineering and sociology from the University of Michigan and University of Chicago.

Additions in the Civil Engineering department are Mr. Isadore Nusbaum, senior assistant civil engineer for the Detroit City Engineer's office. He is a graduate of Wayne University and the University of Michigan.

Lecturer in civil engineering will be Mr. Clyde L. Palmer, a civil engineer in the Detroit City Engineer's office, in charge of sanitation. He has held several city positions, including operating supervisor for the Detroit Sewage Treatment Plant, civil engineer for the city's Sanitary Division, a member of

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From this book you will learn the roles played in tasteful house decoration of balance, arrangement of furniture, proper use of color, furniture adaptation. You will find it equally helpful whether your purpose is to plan and build a new house or make over an old one.

Mrs. Post comes of a family of architects (she is the daughter of the late Bruce Price, one of the foremost architects of his day) and has always been interested in house-building, house planning and house-decorating. She is noted for her knowledge of color and interior arrangement and for her consummate taste. In addition to being an expert home planner she is a charming and amusing writer. This book is not only helpful but it makes house planning an exciting, fascinating adventure.

RICHARDSON—from Page 2

They are drafted with careful regard to the rights and responsibilities of both parties and the appropriate duties and powers of the architect. They aim to establish a national standard. When local conditions, either physical legal or climatic, require adjustment of the standard clauses, they should be made by the architect.

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If the time of completion is of the essence of the contract, the architect should set a completion date, and each bidder should provide in his bid all cost necessary to complete the project by the time stated. If sufficiently important a liquidated damage clause may be included. If more than one contract is involved the mutual responsibilities of separate contractors for delays and damages must be made clear. Any provision involving, in effect, a "penalty" for delayed completion should include a like provision for a "bonus" for earlier completion.

ARCHITECT TO FURNISH COMPLETE PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

The contractors have a right to expect that the information shown on the drawings and specifications is sufficient to enable them to prepare a complete and accurate estimate, and that they will not be penalized for a lack of care or skill in the preparation of these documents.

LISTING OF SUB BIDS

It is unethical, unjust and detrimental to the construction industry when a general contractor, prior to the award of a general contract discloses to architects, owners or others the amounts of sub-bids or quotations obtained in confidence for the purpose of preparing his bid.

SPECIFYING BOTH METHOD AND RESULT

If a specific method is required as well as a guarantee of the result, the contractor should be given the right to protest the method if in his judgment it may not produce the required result, in which case an alternative method should be determined by agreement or arbitration.

PLANS RETURNED BY GENERAL CONTRACTOR WITH BID

Each bidder who is invited to figure on the work should be furnished free of charge, one set of the drawings and specifications. In some cases where bidding time is short or the work is complicated it may be to the owner's interest to provide an additional set. The bidder should be allowed to retain this set or sets until the contract has been let, or until he is definitely out of the competition. If a bidder desires additional sets for preparing his bid, the architect should provide them to him at cost. It is proper to require a deposit from each bidder to be refunded to him upon return of the documents in good condition.

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Edited by

E. J. BRUNNER

Secretary-Manager

**BUILDERS' and TRADERS'
EXCHANGE of DETROIT****THE OWNER**

Construction is an expert service. A person (meaning a person, firm, or corporation, either public or private) wants a building built for a certain need. Commonly, he makes a contact with an architect and/or engineer, and from that time on the industry calls him "the owner," although so far he owns only the thought of getting a structure built.

The architect or engineer who gets the "go ahead" may have submitted a sketch which the owner approves working upon. Or if he hasn't it is his first task. This is absolutely expert service, and the architect has in his mind from the first setting in motion a system of either competition or allocation for getting the work done. What the architect has in mind is contact with persons who are experts in doing certain portions of the work. Beyond that he has in mind the materials and equipments which will be built into the structure.

An owner may set all this machinery in motion and cease to have the intent to be an owner at any stage before actual contracts for construction are signed. His contract with the architect may be framed so that his obligations are filled at some stage in the planning. From then on, the whole industry may be exposed to figuring the job with no guarantee of getting it.

So we see the owner sits on a very comfortable chair in dealing with our industry. He can have a set of plans and specification drawn and have a considerable number of general contractors figure it and they to call upon a considerable number of subbidders to figure it, AND NOT PAY A CENT TO ANYONE BUT THE ARCHITECT FOR WORK DONE.

The fact cannot be escaped that it costs considerable to figure a job. Remember that when the figures have been submitted there is a commitment for a certain number of days, say thirty days, to perform the work for what you have figured it. So figuring a job, is not simply a gesture. It is working toward the binding of the contractor to perform. He cannot skimp on the costly machinery of figuring.

Obviously, the cost of figuring jobs which do not go ahead has, in the long

run, to be shoved into the costs of doing the jobs which do go ahead.

So some of the cost of construction is attributable to the owner who ceases to want to be the owner before he really let the physical contract for construction of something to own.

Almost certainly, we have done far too little in educating the owner to the facts as stated above. In fact, we sometimes abet him in fishing expedition to see "how much it will cost."

Shouldn't we be a bit more frank with the owner? Shouldn't we tell him? Most men have latent cooperation in their veins. Of course, it is hard to devise a plan to obtain for an owner a firm cost price without setting the expensive machinery in motion.

Perhaps that is the sixty dollar question. My dear readers, we offer no prize for its solution, but we would mighty well like to hear your answer.

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Volume XXII

DETROIT, MICHIGAN, APRIL 13, 1948

No. 15

LOUIS KAMPER IN CALIFORNIA

A recent issue of the Daily Press, of Riverside, California, carried the following article:

Noted architect, Louis Kamper of Detroit, Mich., is a winter guest at the Mission Inn. Now retired, the elderly gentleman is spending his second winter here and expects to return to Detroit around May 1.

Reaching the age of 87, March 11, Kamper, keen-minded and active, takes a daily walk and in general is interested in the City and Inn.

Credited to the architectural work of Kamper is a long list of prominent buildings, including banks, hotels, hospitals, court-houses and public and private buildings in various cities throughout the United States.

Coming to this country from Germany in 1882 at the age of 21, within nine years Kamper had established his own business in Detroit. He began his career as draftsman for McKim, Meade and White in New York City. After seven years he went to Detroit, where he became associated with Scott, Kamper and Scott. Two years later he opened his own office.

Born in Rheinpfatz, Bavaria, March 11, 1861, the architect was educated in technical schools of Germany. He now is a naturalized citizen of the United States.

Latest volume of "Who's Who in America" lists the following buildings with Kamper's name: Michigan Building, Buffalo, N. Y.; Providence Hospital, St. Mary's Hospital, Roseland Mausoleum, Cadillac Square Building, Book Building, Washington Boulevard Building, Eaton Tower, Book-Cadillac Hotel, Savoy Hotel, Industrial Bank Building, Bank of Detroit, Tappin School, Detroit Municipal Water Board Building (all of Detroit); Huntington Building and Roosevelt Hotel (both of Miami, Fla.); Westover Hotel, New York City;

Schaefer Building, Dearborn, Mich. Saginaw Court House; etc."

Kamper is affiliated with the American Institute of Architects, Michigan

Society of Architects and Detroit Engineering Society. He also is director of the Industrial Morris Plan Bank in Detroit.



DAVIS & MARTIN PROMOTED

Appointment of A. M. Davis of Lansing, Mich., as Manager of Midwestern Offices of the Portland Cement Association has just been announced by Carl D. Franks, the Association's Vice President for Promotion. Mr. Davis succeeds to the position made vacant by the recent election of Mr. Franks as Vice President.

J. Gardner Martin of Detroit has been appointed to succeed Mr. Davis who has been District Engineer in charge of the Association's office in Lansing since 1934.

Mr. Davis joined the staff of the Association in 1927 as a field engineer in the Indianapolis Office, and was successively assigned to Western Kentucky, Fort Wayne, and South Bend, Ind., before taking charge of the Lansing, Michigan office. He had previously been an engineer with the Indiana Department of Conservation, and earlier had been employed on engineering work for the Indianapolis Sanitary District.

Long a member of the Michigan Engineering Society and the Engineering

Society of Detroit, Mr. Davis is widely known to public officials, engineers, architects and contractors in Michigan. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Purdue University, where he graduated with the class of 1923. He is a member of the American Concrete Institute.

In his new post Mr. Davis will supervise the district offices and field engineers of the Portland Cement Association in ten midwestern states. His headquarters will be in Chicago.

Mr. Martin, who succeeds Mr. Davis, has been a structural engineer for the Association with headquarters in Detroit since March, 1936. Before joining the staff of the Association he had held engineering positions with the Bridge Division of the Michigan State Highway Department and the Detroit Department of Water Supply.

He received a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Detroit in 1927, and a Civil Engineering degree from the same institution in 1933.

Mr. Martin is a member of the Engineering Society of Detroit, the Michigan Society of Professional Engineers, the American Society for Testing Materials, and the American Concrete Institute.

MEETING

American Society
of Heating and Ventilating Engineers
Rackham Bldg., Detroit
Monday, April 12, 1948

Dinner 6:30 P.M.
Meeting 8:00 P.M.

Speaker: R. E. Moore, Vice-President, Bell and Gossett Company.

Subject: "General discussion on interesting phases of heating and forced hot water."

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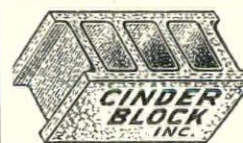
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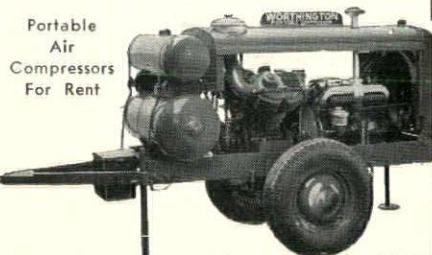
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At Right: Interior view, looking toward private office.

I was commissioned by the owner to design and build, quote "the most unusual real estate office in the country, something that will have advertising appeal and attract the attention from the passers-by," also must be modern and have twelve desks and three private or semi-private offices, reception space and still be large and spacious. All of this to be in a space thirty by thirty-five feet, in an existing building where walls, etc., were fixed.

The result: An open type front, with the least amount of barrier between inside and outside, a free form planning arrangement where space and offices flow together creating one large space, still allowing the necessary privacy and separation of functions within.

The curtain wall, above the glass was splayed out to help protect the red cedar siding from the weather and also to give a flow of surface toward the inside, where the cedar was extended into the office proper, terminating in a light cove. A special detail was deve-



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By Maxwell E. Wright, A.I.A.

loped to conceal the awnings as much as possible so as not to interrupt this effect. The ceiling in the rear was furled down to conceal the existing beam and heating ducts, also the lower ceiling with free form light cove, helped create an intimate atmosphere in the semi-private offices.

The color scheme was carefully planned through choice of material color, so that the reddish brown of the cedar flowed into the rusts and tans of the stone, wood, cork and leather; using the upholstery fabrics, pictures, plants, etc. for accents.

Lighting is of cold cathode cove type to brighten the lemon yellow ceiling, with direct recessed incandescent fixtures planned for an even distribution of light over the general area, with accents above the planting boxes.

The area is completely air conditioned for summer and winter and the splayed window frame is glazed with heat-absorbing glass to cut down glare from the west sun.

The interior cabinet work is a combination of zebra wood, fiddle back mahogany, leather wall, glass, cork and bleached white oak.

All desks were architect designed, and the furniture, draperies, and accessories were selected under his supervision.

To the general contractor, his subcontractors, and the cabinet contractor, "Congratulations for a job well done."

At Left: View looking toward front of office.



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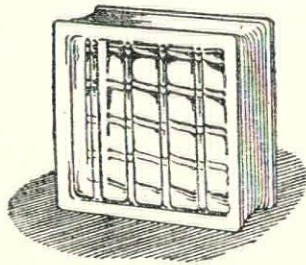
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ways been a paramount purpose and a
tradition of the faculty of the College
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cellent relations with students and so
on.

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ulty can be sustained only by constant
effort and attention; teaching quickly
deteriorates the moment it is no longer
a matter of the greatest importance in
the minds of the teachers."

Dean Freund has arranged the In-
stitute into eight sessions, to be held
once a month, with four lectures and
four discussion groups. A member of
the faculty will speak at each session,
including: An Introduction to Effective
Teaching, Effective Teaching, The Har-
assed Teacher and Teaching as an Art.

Engineering faculty members to lec-
ture at the meetings are Jasper Gerardi,
assistant dean of the College of Engi-
neering; Professor Thomas C. Hanson,
former director of the Department of
Civil Engineering, now on leave of ab-
sence; W. P. Godfrey, assistant profes-
sor of English and representative of the
Department in the College of Engineer-
ing, and John J. Uicker, associate pro-
fessor and acting director of the De-
partment of Mechanical Engineering.

The series, which began on January
30 will terminate on May 7. All Uni-
versity of Detroit faculty members have
been invited to attend.

NEW DIRECTOR

At its January meeting the Grand
Rapids Chapter of The American In-
stitute of Architects elected Phillip C.
Haughey of Battle Creek as a Director
to serve on the Board of the Michigan
Society of Architects.

He succeeds Paul E. Flanagan of
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THANKS TO HARRY

To Harry M. Denyes, AIA, of the Sarinen & Swanson office, goes our thanks for substituting at the "box office" at our last Detroit Chapter dinner meeting.

Our "old faithful," Ed Rosella, AIA, with his several duties of practicing and teaching, was unable to attend on March 17—hence the happy thought of Harry Denyes.

Don't you agree that he too is a clean-cut, good-looking young fellow, just as an up-and-coming young architect should be—and that he handled the "customers" very well, indeed?

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Fred C. Engler is now associated with J. D. Cantwell as sales representative of the Trane sales office in Detroit, 426 McKerchey Building, 2631 Woodward Avenue, telephone CADillac 5905. Mr. Engler has a bachelor's and a master's degree in civil engineering from the University of Wisconsin and was a member of the 1947 Trane Graduate Training Program class.

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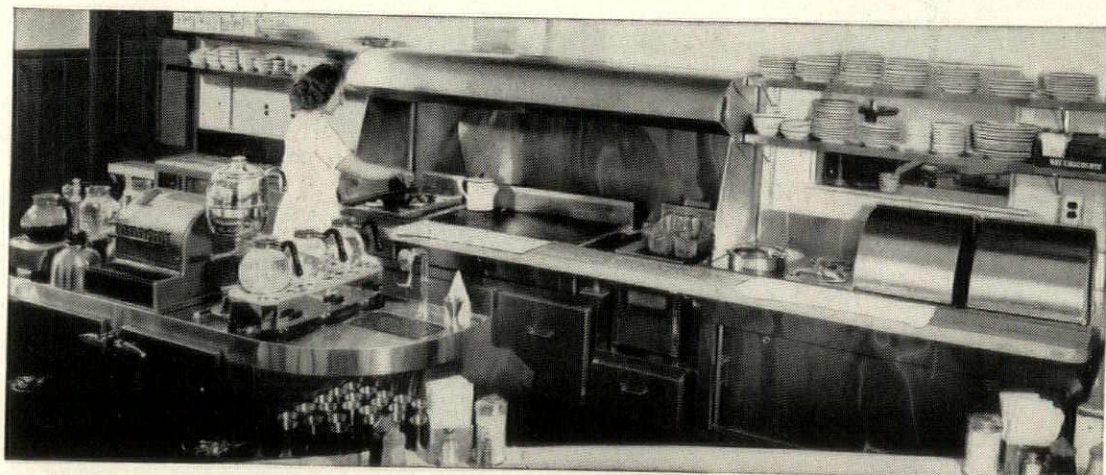
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WEEKLY

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Volume XXII

DETROIT, MICHIGAN, APRIL 20, 1948

No. 16

Michigan Society Board Meets in Detroit

The Board of Directors of the Michigan Society of Architects met at the Detroit Athletic Club on the afternoon of April 7. Present were Adrian N. Langius, President; Earl W. Pellerin, 1st Vice-President; Julian R. Cowin, 2nd Vice-President; Arthur J. Zimmermann, Secretary; Lyle S. Cole, Treasurer; Talmage C. Hughes, Executive Secretary; Directors Paul A. Brysselbout, Phillip C. Haughey, Arthur K. Hyde, Andrew R. Morison and William A. Stone.

Under special hearings and ceremonies, President Langius recognized and welcomed new Director, Phillip Haughey, named to succeed Paul E. Flanagan as representative of the Western Michigan Chapter, A.I.A., (formerly Grand Rapids Chapter).

Alden B. Dow, of Midland was unable to attend because of a meeting of the Saginaw Valley Chapter, A.I.A., of which he is President. He was named as the Society's Delegate to the 80th Annual Convention of The American Institute of Architects at Salt Lake City, June 20-25, 1948.

In response to a questionnaire sent by The Institute to chapters, state societies and state registration boards, a discussion was held and answer prepared giving a statement of experiences with the functioning of the N.C.A.R.B., from Michigan's standpoint.

A standard membership card for all Michigan chapters of The Institute was presented. It is the purpose to make them uniform and to have one card for the chapter and society, since dues are included in one payment. The proposed card will state that one is a member in good standing of his chapter, the Society and has paid annual subscription to the Weekly Bulletin. Proofs have been submitted to the chapters and their approval asked. The Society is to furnish and pay for the cards.

Non-resident membership in the Society was again discussed. This form of membership had been discontinued under the new by-laws adopted at the last convention, but there have been many letters from former non-resident members who desire to continue their membership. Julian Cowin, Chairman of the By-Laws Committee was authorized to make a study and report as to a revision of the by-laws to include this class again.

In discussing the plans for the Mid-Summer Meeting at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island this summer, President Langius stated that it was his idea to have business meetings only in the mornings, with afternoons for social activities. The meeting is scheduled for August 6, 7 and 8, 1948.

Andrew R. Morison, Chairman of the 34th Annual Convention Committee held in Detroit on March 4 and 5, reported on that event as follows:

"Your Convention Committee for the Thirty-Fourth Annual Convention of the Michigan Society of Architects is pleased to report as follows:

"The registration was satisfactory, there being 92 architects registered and 63 guests, a total of 155. The number of architects present was very gratifying.

"The opening session on Thursday morning, with Adrian N. Langius presiding, was attended by approximately 60. The session was started promptly and all scheduled business was taken care of with avoidance of the indifference of those present which has usually marked the opening session of previous conventions.

"The Thursday afternoon seminar, with Julian R. Cowin presiding and Arthur Hyde as moderator, was attended by approximately 125. This period was exceedingly interesting and instructive, and if we may judge from later comments, was considered very

much worthwhile by those who attended.

"The Thursday night dinner sponsored by The Tile Manufacturers' Association, Inc., Mr. Edwin B. Morris, Representative, was attended by 182. The cocktail party and dinner were enjoyed by all, and the informational talk and motion picture showing the methods of manufacturing tile were interesting and informative.

"The Friday Morning seminar, with Robert B. Frantz presiding, was attended by approximately 100. This seminar was notable in that it was the first time, to our knowledge, that a representative of labor had been invited to take part in our program. We believe that the seminar proved to be worthwhile and we are of the opinion that we should use this get-together as a starting point for a movement for greater cooperation among all groups within the Industry.

"The Friday afternoon seminar, with Earl W. Pellerin presiding, was attended by approximately 120. Interest was well sustained and a great deal of predicting as to the future of the building industry was indulged in by the various speakers, which may prove of value to those who attended.

"The Friday evening banquet, under the joint sponsorship of the Michigan Society of Architects, The Producers' Council, and the Builders' and Traders' Exchange, was attended by 780 persons. We feel that we owe a great debt to Mr. Langius and Mr. Allen for carrying out their part of the program in such an excellent manner, and to Governor Sigler for honoring us with his presence and addressing us in such an inspiring and instructive manner. We also are indebted to the Building Industry Banquet Committee for doing a swell job in handling this affair.

"For the first time, we endeavored to do something to make the ladies feel

BOARD—from Page 1

that they were welcome at our convention. Nothing of any importance was arranged for them except the luncheon held on Friday noon. However, we feel that our efforts were successful inasmuch as the ladies were present in greater numbers, particularly at the Thursday evening dinner and the Friday night banquet. Mrs. Morison is grateful for the help which she received from the members of her Committee, and she derived a great deal of pleasure from meeting and becoming better acquainted with the ladies who were present.

"A financial report is attached hereto. Unfortunately, we are unable to make this report final until after we have had a final meeting of the Building Industry Banquet Committee upon the return of the Treasurer and Secretary who have been out of town."

EDITOR'S NOTE: It can be said that, under Andy's able guidance, the Convention finished well in the black. Considering the excellent scale on which it was conducted, this is quite an accomplishment. Andy deserves our thanks and commendations.

The next meeting of the Society Board will be held in Grand Rapids on May 5, at which time the architects will give Roger Allen's new house a little extra supervision.

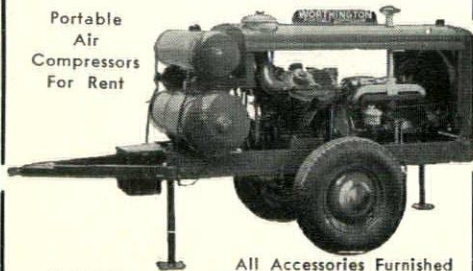
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HOUSING RESEARCH AND EDUCATION AT THE UNI- VERSITY OF MICHIGAN

A 24-page bulletin on this subject has been issued recently by the University of Michigan, College of Architecture and Design, and Department of Engineering Research. It covers three main subjects: HOME PLANNERS INSTITUTE by Ralph W. Hammett, HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING THE HOME by Floyd N. Calhoon, and FABRICATION RESEARCH by George B. Brigham, Jr.

In a FOREWORD, Dean Wells I. Bennett, of the College of Architecture and Design, says:

As a School of Architecture we have always been concerned with residential building as one of the phases of the whole field. For the past fifteen years we have been actively studying what is known as the Housing Problem. By this is meant a recognition of the great need for an improved quality of human shelter, particularly as regards families with low incomes. The nation in general now admits housing as in the public interest.

In this College, beginning with the depression years, a combination of student instruction and professional service was given in the Architectural Clinic, a course open to graduating students. Small projects were undertaken providing plans, specifications and supervision at a nominal cost to the home builder. The work was carried out by advanced students under the charge of one of the staff. This was definitely low cost housing, since the Clinic accepted no commissions where the cost of the building would be greater than \$6,000.

Likewise, on the campus at the University of Michigan, projects carried out by the Department of Engineering Research have, from time to time over a period of nearly twenty years, included detailed studies applicable to technical aspects of house building. In the main these have been sponsored by manufacturers of building materials and assemblies. During the war three important projects were carried out by the College of Architecture and Design in cooperation with the Department of Engineering Research. Additional projects are now in preparation.

In this Bulletin two of the special activities of the College in housing education and housing research are presented. In the later years of the war the tremendous popular interest in home building found a certain release

in published material and in numerous discussion groups. The carrying on of "Home Planners Institutes" was one of these activities. Although begun on the Pacific Coast, the idea was early taken up at the University of Michigan. Professor Ralph W. Hammett of this College took an active part in this series offered in many cities of the state. His paper, "Home Planners Institutes," explains our programs and their popular interest. Associate Professor Floyd N. Calhoon of the College of Engineering, mechanical engineer, specialist and consultant on heating and air conditioning problems, was one of the mainstays of the Home Planners Institutes. He presents an informing statement on "Heating and Air Conditioning the Home."

For several years Associate Professor George B. Brigham, Jr., has specialized in the study of prefabricated house systems. He was in charge of two government-sponsored research projects here and has successfully carried through the completion of houses under the "Brigham System." His type of house construction has been carried through development research and is in commercial production. Professor Brigham's statement on "Prefabrication Research" at the University of Michigan states in some detail the nature of his work.

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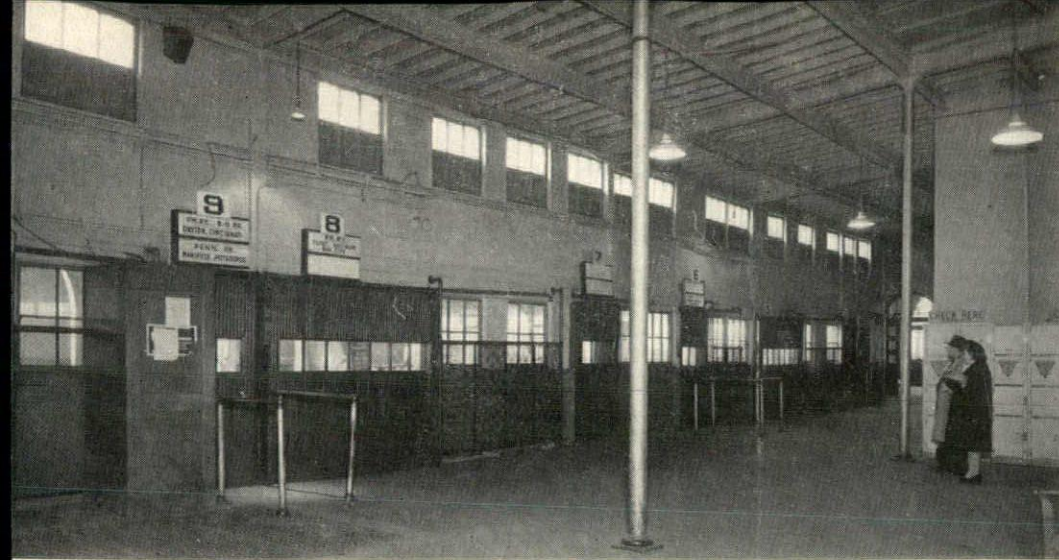


Below: The old Waiting Room during construction, showing part of steel framing in place at second story level.

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Architects & Engineers

Above: New Waiting Room looking toward ticket office. Recessed, fluorescent lighting, acoustic ceiling, buff marble and terra-cotta plaster on walls, terrazzo floor, oak seating.





The old Concourse structure before remodeling. The new concrete structure was built above the old roof before it was removed from service.

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View of new Concourse looking
toward Fort Street Lobby. Train
gates at left. Corner of Station
Master's office right foreground.

Modernization of Detroit's Fort Street Union Depot

by Julian R. Cowin, A.I.A.

Harley, Ellington and Day, Inc.
Architects and Engineers

Early in the war period, the managements of the railroads using Detroit's fifty-seven year old Union Depot decided to proceed with a modernization program of this structure in the realization that the tremendous impetus given to railroad travel during the war would carry over into the post-war period. Large crowds were using the Depot facilities and being accommodated only with great difficulty. The railroads had on order for post-war service a number of modern trains, and the managements felt that the travelling public was entitled to clean, convenient surroundings from the moment they entered the terminal preparatory to boarding one of these new streamliners.

The architectural planning and construction problems attendant to such a modernization were unusual in many respects. The original building, planned for use in an earlier era of railroading, had several elements which were in direct violation of modern planning concepts. The ticket office was housed in a solid masonry structure, directly in the line of traffic between the front entrance and the train platforms. This was proper at the time that the building was built, but is not convenient today, as the 1948 traveller usually purchases his ticket in advance or has space reserved for him under the modern pay-on-train system. In the original station there was great intermingling and confusion of traffic between incoming and outgoing passengers, as taxi cabs and private cars both discharged and picked up passengers at the Third Street entrance, and passengers going to



Above: The new look in ticket office accommodation for quick, efficient service.

street cars usually had to use this doorway as well.

Structurally, the building was in sound condition despite of its age. Solid masonry walls supported the floor structure, which is of timber above the

Below: Information desk at the key point of traffic in Waiting Room. Plexiglass map in colors showing eastern connections.



first floor level. A fire had at one time burned out some of the interior and the first floor construction was at that time replaced in reinforced concrete, making a suitable structure for the modernized public spaces.

The main waiting room extended through a second story height, although the fenestration was arranged for separate floors. Since the Depot Company required additional space for offices and for facilities not requiring direct contact with the public, it was decided to insert second floor construction within the waiting room and use a flush ceiling design for the first floor to maintain as great a height as possible. This was successfully done and the new waiting room does not seem cramped during the before-train crowded periods. The concourse, prior to the modernization, consisted only of a timber shelter, unheated, which had been built during World War I and continued in use.

The reconstruction program had to be carefully worked out so as to keep all the departments in the Depot in operation during the building operations and to maintain access and traffic of the public with proper regard for safety at all times. With no outside space available for temporary facilities, it was necessary to advance the program department-by-department, completing each facility in its new location before the original one was removed from service. Only one facility, the restaurant, could be taken out without inconveniencing the travelling public. In this way, the lounge and toilet facilities, barber shop, station master's office, tick-

et offices and cashier, public telephones, baggage room, news-stand and finally the restaurant were, in turn, moved into the new and permanent locations. Each of these facilities now serves the public in a space properly related to the needs of the modern traveler.

In the replanning, the new concourse was cleared of all facilities which could be placed elsewhere, so as to be free for the traveler boarding trains or coming into the terminal and for the groups which may be seeing him off or greeting him. Incoming traffic is diverted to right or left for taxi cabs or public transportation. The Baggage Room, which is more frequently used by incoming passengers, is placed in the adjacent lobby, and public telephones and news stands are likewise accessible without going into the waiting room. The station master and Travelers' Aid have their spaces off the concourse floor. A feature of the concourse is the large Thermopane windows facing the train platforms, so that the constantly-changing spectacle of railway traffic can be viewed from within the building.

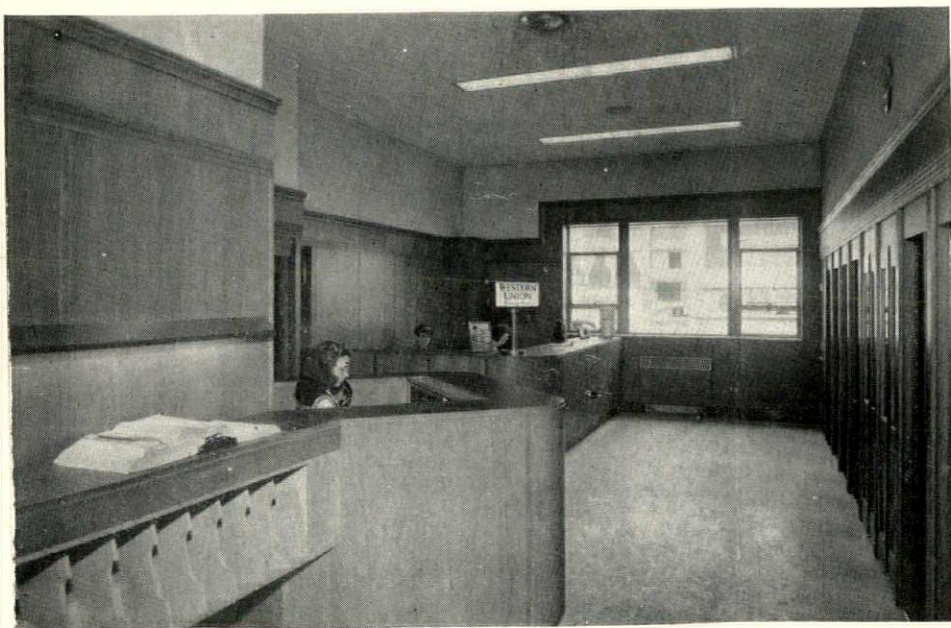
The waiting room is particularly planned and designed for the traveller before boarding the train or who may have an extended wait between connections. Seating is arranged in hollow squares, rather than in the conventional rows, so that passing traffic will not disturb one who has an extended wait. The information counter is in the direct line from front doors to trains and has, as a decorative and practical feature, an edge-lighted Plexiglass map showing the main and inter-connecting lines of the railroads using the terminal. Restaurant and soda fountain facilities are on the Fort Street side of the room, public telephone and telegraph office is in a separate room, available to both waiting room and concourse, while on the south side space is allocated to the women's lounge and to the ticket office



Above: Looking into Restaurant. Steel framing supplants part of wall under main tower to open up this room.

operation. The ticket counter is of the modern low screen design with each attendant having necessary individual desk units for rate books, railway guides, telephone, date stamps and the like. Each attendant has a portable cabinet for his stock of more-frequently-purchased tickets and he has to leave the window to make up tickets for unusual routing or destinations.

Below: Communication facilities grouped in one room accessible from Concourse and Waiting Room.



In line with the management's requirement of passenger comfort, the waiting room and adjacent areas have been completely air-conditioned, an unusual feature in this type of building.

The railway information and reservation bureau, the ticket accounting department, the railway telegraph office and the railway police office, all of which were cramped into small quarters before the reconstruction, have now been relocated on the second-floor space provided within the original waiting room. Special equipment of the more modern type has been installed for these various activities. Likewise, the mechanical facilities for the building have been completely modernized, including new electrical system for the Depot itself and for the servicing of air-conditioned trains while in the Depot, as well as ventilating equipment for those parts of the building which are not air-conditioned. Space for the maintenance department of the Depot and incinerator equipment for handling of the Depot refuse are provided in the basement.

The work has been a part of the improvement programs of the Chesapeake and Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wabash Railways, which are the three roads using and owning this terminal. The detailed direction has been handled by Mr. O. E. Hager, Engineer—Bridges and Structures of the Pere Marquette District of the C. & O., in conjunction with the Architects.

The project has served to produce for Detroit one of the most attractive and efficient railroad terminal facilities in the country. Mayor Van Antwerp, in his dedicatory remarks, expressed the hope that the example will be followed by other Detroit building owners who may be inspired to modernize useful structures built in earlier days.

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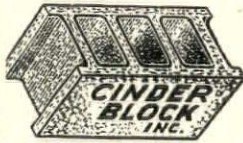
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REZONING

The City Plan Commission has recently considered the area bounded by Temple, Third, Warren and Cass with regard to its suitability for RMU zoning for high density multiple dwellings of greater height than fifty feet. Some parts of this area are already so zoned to permit this type of development and other parts are now zoned RM4 to permit medium density multiple dwellings up to fifty feet in height.

The study was made in recognition of the need and demand for additional areas within which the higher type of apartment might be built within the Boulevard. In the review of the situation the Commission concluded that some parts of this area might well be rezoned RMU but did not believe that the entire area should be rezoned in the absence of specific projects.

The Commission, therefore, wishes to publicize the fact that it is willing to consider specific locations within this general area for rezoning to RMU district classification. The staff of the Commission will be glad to consult with any interested realtor, builder or architect in working out preliminary plans and sketches for proposed developments of this kind which will require rezoning for their consummation.

IN GUATEMALA

J. H. Gustav Steffens post cards that he is having an interesting time in Guatemala, visiting with native architects and artists. Living is cheap there, he states—a cook or a house boy for fifty cents per day plus food. Though he has gone into the hotel business, Gus has not lost his interest in the profession.

KRAMER WITH MADISON

William E. Kramer, A.I.A., has discontinued his office at 109 East Nine Mile Road, Ferndale, Michigan and has become affiliated with the office of Frederick D. Madison, A.I.A., at 230 Wayne Oakland Bank Building, Royal Oak, Michigan. The telephone number of the Madison office is Royal Oak 0078.

PATON REAPPOINTED

Clyde R. Paton, consulting engineer, of Birmingham, has been reappointed by Governor Sigler as a member of the Michigan State Board, Architects, Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors, for the term ending Jan. 1, 1955.

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RESUMES PRACTICE

Richard P. Raseman, A.I.A., 910 Rose Avenue, Ann Arbor, Michigan, has resumed the practice of architecture, following an absence of some years when he was in the Navy, teaching and engaged in other activities. His telephone number is Ann Arbor 2-3558. He desires catalogues.

Dick Raseman, a past president of the Detroit Chapter of The American Institute of Architects, was formerly a partner of his father, the late Richard E. Raseman, a Fellow of The Institute and pioneer in the practice of his profession in Detroit.

He was born in Detroit, where he received his early education. He graduated from Cornell University in 1920 and later traveled and studied in Europe, China and Japan.

Following a period with Aymar Embury 11 and H. T. Lindeburg, in New York, he became registered to practice in Michigan in 1923, when he entered business with his father.

His many friends will wish him every success in his resumed practice.



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RE:VENT FLUES FOR WATER HEATERS

Section 2221 of the Detroit Building Code simply calls for a flue from a gas-fired water heater to be "connected to an effective flue extending to the outer air"

Section 1602.1.1 of the official Plumbing Code reads as follows.

"FLUE PIPE CONNECTION. The flue pipe serving a water heating device shall be connected into the chimney flue above the flue pipe serving any furnace or stove."

In the past, the Bureau of Buildings has approved such flue connections when located below the flue pipe serving any furnace or stove.

Since the Plumbing Code is more specific and calls for the connection to be made above the flue pipe serving the furnace or stove, the Bureau of Buildings from now on will insist that the flue connections be made above the furnace or stove connection.

Construction has begun on a \$1,500,000 plywood plant in Orangeburg, South Carolina for Hamilton Veneer Company, a subsidiary of United States Plywood Corporation.

United States Plywood Corporation has a plywood plant in Orangeburg, near its extensive holdings in gum and hardwood. The old plant will continue in operation after the new plant is completed, but mainly will produce tekwood, a veneer-kraft laminate; a new flooring underlay; and a new water-resistant laminate

It is expected that capacity production of the new plant will be three million feet of 1/4-inch hardwood plywood per month.

YOU CAN BUILD ANYTHING

The order against construction for amusement or recreational purposes has been revoked, effective as of April 1. You can now build theatres, bowling alleys, etc. without permission. You can build anything.

The order follows in full:

OFFICE OF HOUSING EXPEDITER
(Construction Limitation Regulation, as Amended Aug. 29, 1947, Revocation)

Part 812—CONSTRUCTION LIMITATION REGULATION UNDER

HOUSING AND RENT ACT OF 1947.

Section 812.1 Construction Limitation Regulation, is hereby revoked, effective April 1, 1948.

This revocation does not affect any liabilities incurred for violations of the regulation or for violations of any actions taken by the Housing Expediter under the regulation.

(P. L. 129, 80th Cong., P. L. 422, 80th Cong.)

Issued this 31st day of March 1948.

Tighe E. Woods,
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Volume XXII

DETROIT, MICHIGAN, APRIL 27, 1948

No. 17

What the City's Oldest Directory Discloses MOSES F. DICKINSON

After Whom A School Is Named

He was in Business on Woodward Avenue for Twenty Years. A Gentleman of the Old School, although in Trade. One of the Early Fire Wardens.

Editor's Note: This material about the founder of H. H. Dickinson Company is from a framed statement on the walls of the Company's offices in Detroit. Moses F. Dickinson was the grandfather of Horace H. Dickinson, the Company's present president.

Moses Field Dickinson lived in Detroit from 1831 until his death in 1871, a period of forty years, during which he earned and deserved a reputation for integrity and capacity as a business man and was a good citizen in all the relations of life. He was born at Petersham, Worcester County, Mass., on September 18, 1800, and was the only son of Captain David Dickinson, who received his commission in 1815 from Caleb Strong, governor of Massachusetts, for services in the war of 1812, and Mary Ann Field Warner. Moses was a bright, clever youth, the admiration of his two young sisters and the pride of his exemplary parents, who took great care in his training. He finished his education at the Amherst Academy, in Hampshire County, which was a noted school in Massachusetts before Amherst College was founded in 1821.

His first work in life on his own account was as a clerk for Woods & Company, merchants and manufacturers of woolen goods at Enfield, a neighboring town. Then he went home to Petersham, and taught school. While a pedagogue he invented a system of stenography, which he taught in his own and neighboring towns. When the term was ended, an inclination to see life and business in a large city took him to Boston, where he became a clerk in the dry goods house of James Brewer. His last situation in the East was at Hardwick, in his native county, where he was a clerk in the dry goods house of S. F. & E. Cutler. Here he met his fate in the person of Maria Loraine Wesson, the eldest child and

only daughter of Rev. William B. Wesson, pastor of the congregational church of Hardwick, and sister of the late William B. Wesson, of this city. The marriage took place on September 27, 1831.

COMES WEST

He had long entertained a desire to settle in a western state, and about a year before had made a short tour in these parts and had been favorably impressed with Detroit. Immediately after being united the youthful pair set out for the Strait City, traveling by stage from Hardwick to Albany, thence by canal to Buffalo, and by steamer to Detroit, arriving in October, 1831.

In Detroit he was first employed in the general store of Phineas Davis & Company, who had succeeded to the business of Thomas Palmer in 1827, and whose store was on the southeast corner of Jefferson avenue and Griswold street, where the old Board of Trade stood.

STARTS FOR HIMSELF

Dickinson was now over thirty years of age, with excellent habits, good business character and possessed of some means. About 1834 he started for himself, and the directory shows that he was in partnership with James Stewart in the firm of "Dickinson & Stewart, coppersmiths and hardware merchants, 32 Woodward avenue." The store and shop was on the east side of Woodward avenue, between Jefferson avenue and Woodbridge street, on the site of the building now occupied by M. N. Rowley. This building was erected by Mr. Dickinson in 1843. Stewart was a prac-

tical smith and a popular man, and was afterward chief engineer of the old fire department in 1847-9.

A few years afterward, Stewart started a shop for himself, but Dickinson remained at the old stand, where he did business for twenty years, retiring in 1852 with a respectable fortune. A large portion of the copper work done in his shop was for steamboats. He had a large trade, was scrupulously honest in his dealings and charged moderate prices. Every piece of work that left his shop was done in a workman-like manner and he would suffer no carelessness on the part of his subordinates.

APPEARANCE AND CHARACTER

Personally he was a man of good size, being over five feet nine inches in height, well proportioned and weighing about 150 pounds, dark, nearly black hair, rather small gray eyes, bright, healthy complexion, with whiskers and full beard, but no moustache. His facial expression was that of keenness and resolution. He was erect, lithe and active in his carriage, until within a few weeks of his death, and when a boy and young man he was a good wrestler and graceful dancer. He was always neatly dressed and wore a high black satin stock and high standing collars.

In business affairs and in contact with strangers he was dignified and rather formal in manner, but at his home and among friends, his bearing was courteous, genial and pleasant. He was punctilious in money matters, paying promptly one hundred cents on the dollar, and expecting the same from his debtors. He never indorsed a note or asked a similar favor for himself and was square and honorable in all his engagements. He was a democrat in politics, and was a fire warden in the early days, and always left his staff of office and his black leather hatband, with "fire warden" in white letters, near his bed. His house and store were

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always well supplied with leather water buckets.

Mr. Dickinson never speculated with his surplus capital, but whenever he could secure an advantageous investment in real estate he would buy the property and improve it, and in this careful manner he accumulated a snug fortune of about \$200,000.

A FRIEND OF EDUCATION

His home for many years was on the south side of Lafayette Avenue, between Shelby and Wayne streets in the block where the new federal building now stands. In 1851 he was one of a number of parents who paid Miss Sarah Hunt the sum of \$3,000 to start a girls' school the money to be repaid in the tuition of their children. The Hunt school was first in the Norton Strong house, at the southeast corner of Fort and Cass streets, where Jennings & Hagar's merchant tailor establishment is now located. It was then removed to a house previously occupied by Dr. George B. Russell, on the north side of Fort street, about where the front entrance of the new federal building is situated. Two of Mr. Dickinson's daughters were educated in this school. He was a firm friend of Miss Sarah Hunt, Professor Henry Chaney, and Professor Elisha Jones, who taught his children. It was in recognition of this friendship, as well as his interest in educational matters, that Henry A. Chaney, when a member of the board of education, procured the naming of the Dickinson school in his honor.

When the late William B. Wesson, his wife's brother, came to this city, he treated him like one of his own children, encouraged his ambition, and paid his expenses in college. He had the satisfaction of seeing his young

See DICKINSON Page 10

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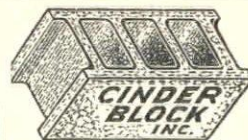
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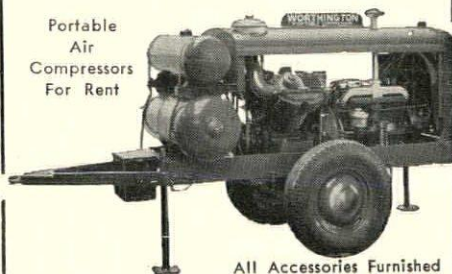
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SOUVENIR OF OPENING, 1908

MARCH OF

PROGRESS

SOUVENIR
OPENING OF
1908

GRINNELL BROS.
NEW
DETROIT
HEADQUARTERS

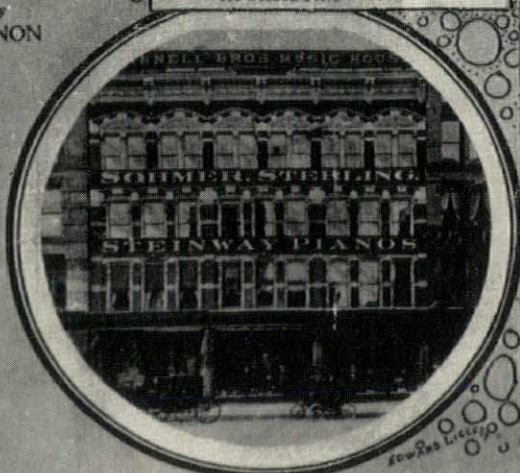


Original Store 216 Woodward Ave.
1882-1884

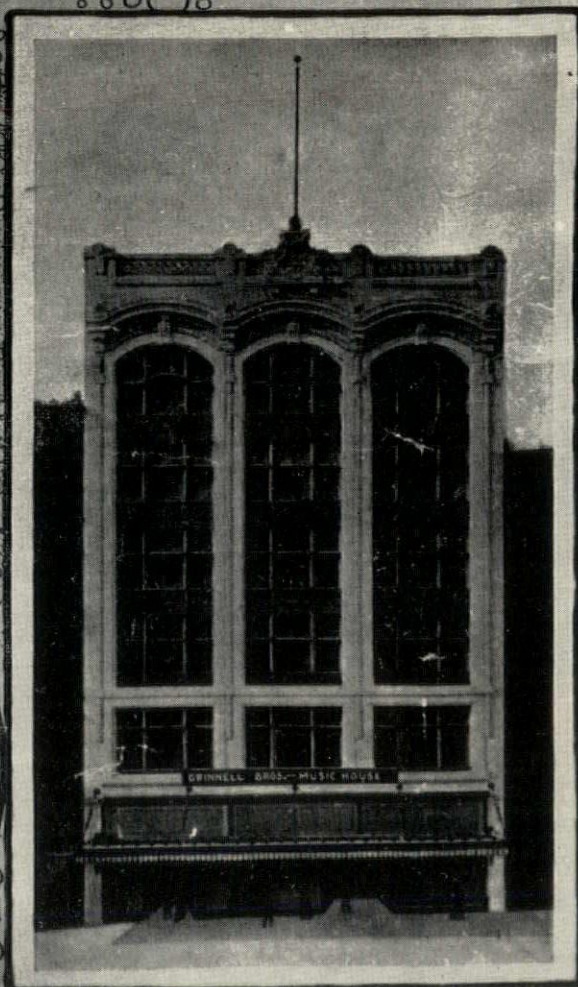


225 Woodward Ave. 1885-1896

Composed by
J. R. SHANNON



219-221-223 Woodward Ave.
1896-1908



NEW MICHIGAN HEADQUARTERS
243-245-247 Woodward Avenue
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At left is shown the entrance and window display of Grinnell's new store.

Coburn Photos

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At Right: The Woodward Avenue Facade
at Night.

GRINNELL BROTHERS, DETROIT, MICH.

"First in Music Since 1879"

LEO M. BAUER,
A. I. A.

Architect



The building constructed for Grinnell Brothers in 1907 was one of the first reinforced concrete structures in Detroit. The system was then known as the Kahn System of Reinforcement, and preceded by a score of years the design of concrete structures with which architects and engineers of today are familiar.

The first Grinnell Store was established at Ann Arbor in 1879, and the first Detroit store was opened at 218 Woodward Avenue in 1882. Other lo-

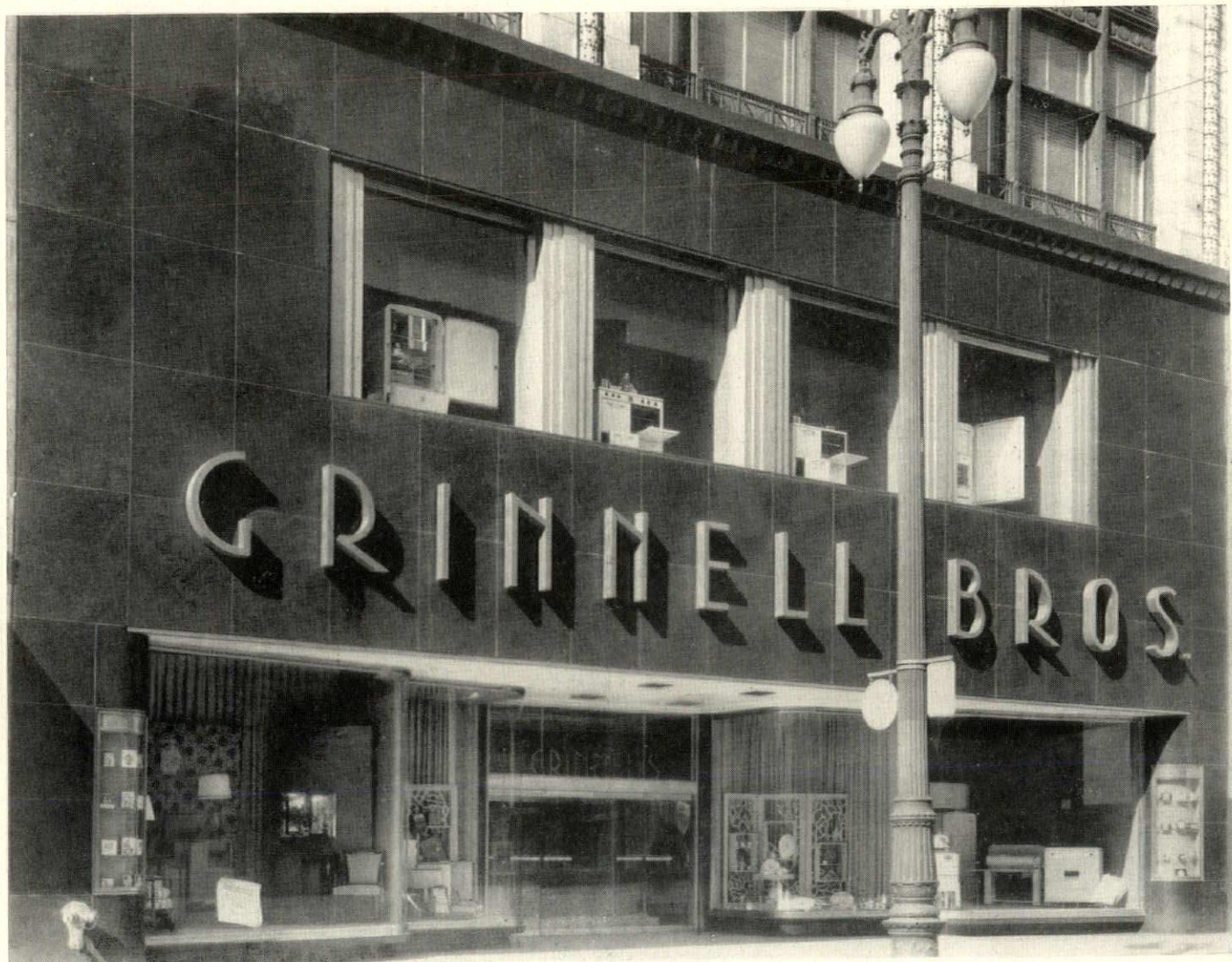
cations for the Detroit store were at 226 Woodward Avenue from 1884-1896, at 219-223 Woodward Avenue from 1896-1907, and the present location at 1515-21 Woodward Avenue from 1908 to date. A reproduction of original photographs of the various locations is shown on the accompanying pages. It is significant that Grinnell Brothers have served Detroit and its outlying territory for almost three-quarters of a century.

The alteration to the building at 1515-21 Woodward Avenue, just recently completed, was one of major importance. Prior to the onset of the construction program the Owners leased the upper five floors of the familiar Tuttle & Clark Building, now known as Fred Sanders. Through such occupation the facilities of the store were doubled from its original size. The original intent was to install new passenger elevators, together with a major alteration to the front of the

building. As the work progressed in the field it was later decided to add an additional story, as well as to replace all of the mechanical systems.

The work of this alteration was a difficult engineering problem. The floor dimension of the original building was only 60 ft. frontage on Woodward Avenue by 100 feet in depth, and during the course of the alteration it was necessary that the store be maintained in full operation in all the departments. Such a condition was a hardship to both the Owners and the Contractor, though it was the only manner in which the work could be accomplished without losing the Woodward Avenue identity.

The engineering of the project was interesting and, because of the nature thereof, was demanding of the greatest accuracy. The most important phase of the alteration was the removal of the two first floor columns and the shoring up of the entire main facade



WOODWARD AVENUE
FACADE

LEO M. BAUER
Architect

BRYANT & DETWILER CO.
General Contractors



RECORD DEPARTMENT — FOURTH FLOOR

of the building preparatory to the placement of new steel girders and columns. This portion of the work required months of careful planning and preparation, and the actual installation of the steel was accomplished only during weekends. The main girders supporting the facade of the building are located below the first floor level and just under the second floor construction. The first floor girders are cantilevered from the main columns in the basement, and all are designed for inverted camber. Several weeks were required in transferring the load of the structure to the shoring prior to the placement of girders, and three additional weeks were required in transferring the load of the building to the new girders and columns. Calculations were made on the basis of a final settlement of $\frac{1}{8}$ ". Some months later readings were taken, which indicated that the settlement was $\frac{3}{32}$ ", or almost exactly as was anticipated.

Another important problem resulted from the placement of the additional story on the main portion of the building. It was determined that though the combined footings seemed large enough, it would be necessary to reinforce all the columns within the building. Several methods were analyzed and it was finally decided to enclose all such columns of the building with latticed angle construction for that

portion constructed of reinforced concrete, and plate reinforcement for steel columns.

The construction for this building was unusual in that the isolated columns in the first two stories were structural steel with reinforced concrete above. From the information available, it was ascertained that the steel columns and the bases therefor were not adequate to support the new load. Upon excavating to the base plates of the original columns it was found that base angles and base plates through the years had deteriorated to the extent that there was little remaining to support the structure above. We learned that the structural steel below the basement floor had not been protected by concrete or masonry. It was necessary to shore up the construction of the first two floors pending the installation of column reinforcement, together with new bases for the columns.

The construction of the new mezzanine floor presented its problems, in that much of the floor of the original mezzanine had been suspended with hangers from the second floor construction. New structural framing was provided.

In order to accommodate the increased traffic in the building, three new passenger elevators and one freight elevator were installed.

Above: A view of the Record Department in Grinnell's New Quarters, on the Fourth Floor.

The roof of the original building was left intact. Skylight wells and other openings were closed in with new slabs. Realizing that the construction would not permit a sales floor at this level, it was decided that the area be converted for the use of employees' locker rooms, under which condition it was known that the live load would be no greater than the original roof load. Due to the fact that the original footings would support only a small amount of additional load, it was determined that the lightest type of construction be used for the added story and roof construction. This was accomplished by means of open truss steel joists and light weight concrete floor and roof construction.

The main facade of the building for its first two stories is executed in ebony granite with stainless steel trim. The show windows are a departure from the conventional and, because of their size, required special lighting. An attempt has been made to produce a contemporary design of character.

The mechanical systems presented their problems also. Inasmuch as the five floors of the building to the north

has been leased, it was necessary that the mechanical services be extended to these floors. This required a major change in the plumbing, heating, fire-protection and electrical systems, to the extent that the original systems were practically replaced with new throughout the entire building. Owing to the limited space available in the basement of the building, it was necessary to confine the mechanical equipment to a very small area, and to construct a specially-designed electrical switchboard.

The system of heating for the main floor and mezzanine is forced warm air, with its source located above the main entrance to the building. All other floors of the building are heated in the conventional manner, and all are equipped to receive future air-conditioning units.

A new fluorescent lighting system was installed throughout the entire building, with particular emphasis placed on the design of the first and mezzanine floors.

All seven floors and basement of the original building have been redesigned and refurbished. An additional sales floor was constructed as the top story of the building and, because of the pent-house construction required through the installation of new elevators, much additional storage and stock space was added. The construction operation required eighteen months to complete.

The various floors are allocated and merchandised as follows:

- Basement—Sheet Music, Stock and Mechanical Equipment
- 1st Floor—General Merchandising
- 2nd Floor—China, Glass and Silverware
- 3rd Floor—Band Instruments and Practice Rooms
- 4th Floor—Radios, Records and Record Booths
- 5th Floor—Pianos and Organs
- 6th Floor—Furniture and Furnishings
- 7th Floor—Lamps, Floor Coverings and General Offices
- 8th Floor—Household Appliances and Executive Offices
- 9th and
- 10th Floors—Stock Rooms, Telephone Switchboard, and Elevator Machinery.

Appreciation is here expressed for the helpful attitude of the Owners, the General Contractor, all Sub-contractors, Material Suppliers, the Engineers and the Architect's Staff, who co-operated splendidly throughout the progress of the work, though laboring under difficulties.

Acknowledgment is also made of the assistance of the office of Albert Kahn Associated Architects and Engineers, Inc., architects of the original building, and the Truscon Steel Company, both of whom graciously furnished copies of old records still remaining in their files.

In addition to the main store, Grinnell Brothers operate thirty branches throughout the State of Michigan, and a major store in Toledo, Ohio. The Officers of Grinnell Brothers are: Mr. E. R. McDuff, President and Treasurer; Mr. Robert Meginnity and Mr. I. L. Grinnell, Vice-Presidents; and Mr. H. W. Rapp, Secretary.

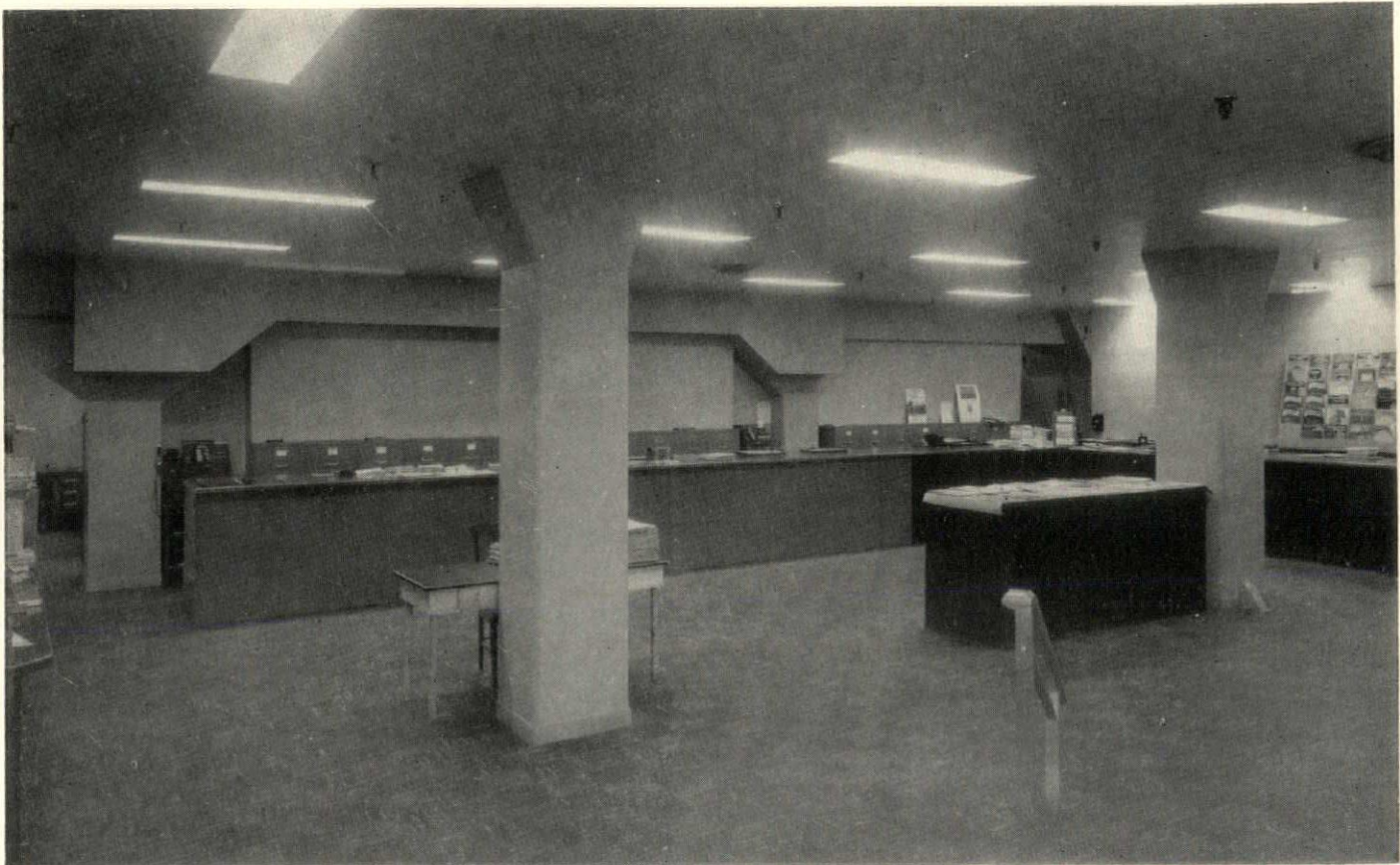
MODELS EXHIBIT

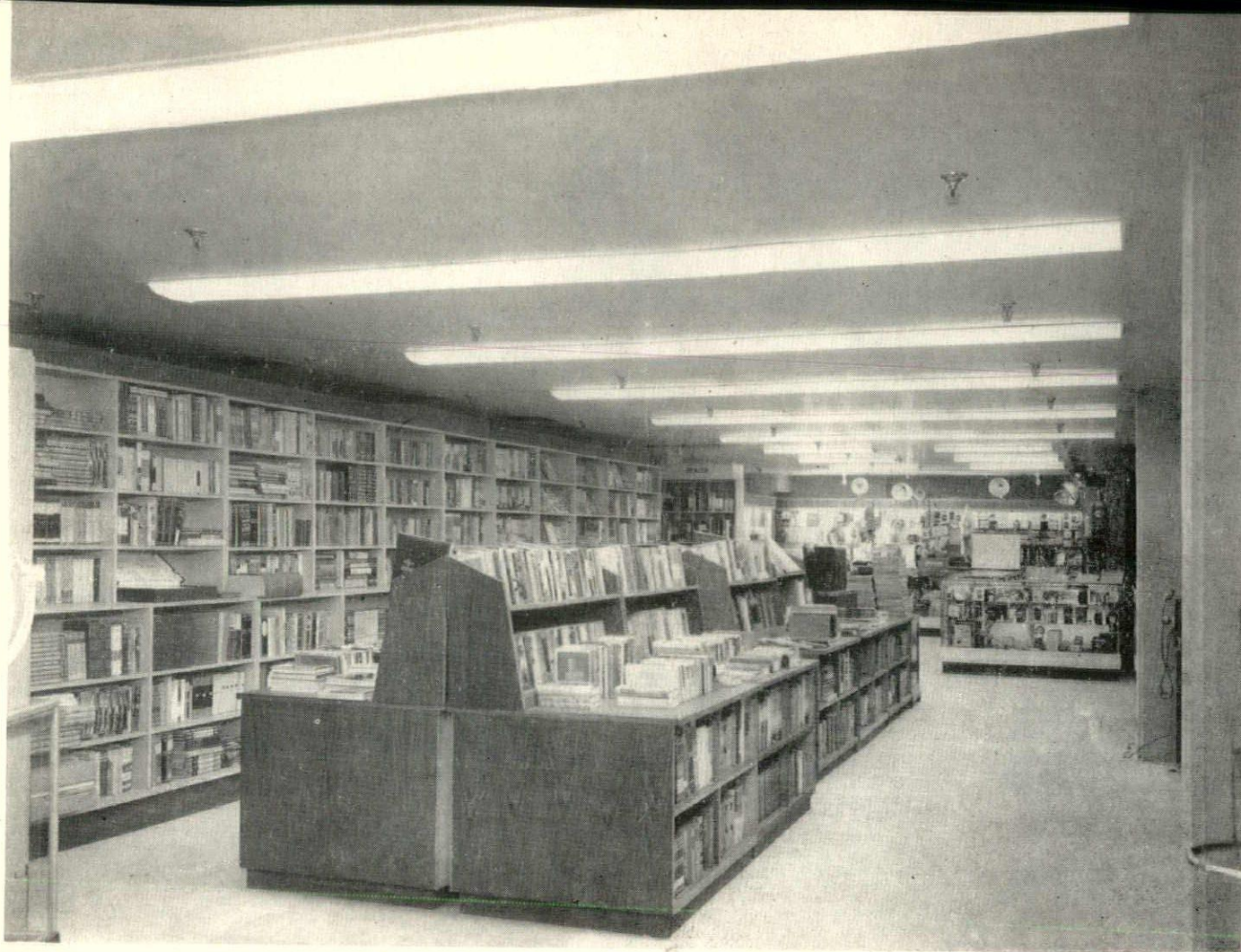
The Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company's exhibit of models of store fronts, interiors, equipment, lighting, etc., which is being shown throughout the country, will be in Detroit on April 29 and 30, in the English Room of the Detroit Leeland Hotel, it is announced by M. J. Maley, Detroit representative of the company.

In the exhibit are twelve models, beautifully done, of excellent designs, that will delight architects. A cordial invitation to view the exhibit is extended to all those interested.

CORBIN UNIT LOCKS
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GRINNELL BROS. ALTERATIONS
Supplied by
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Below: In the Sheet Music Department in the Basement Effects of the Cantilevered Girder can be seen.





Above: This view of the First Floor gives a good idea of the lighting Scheme.

Below: A view of the Basement Stairway, in Grinnell's Remodeled Store.



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George F. Diehl, Architect

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VICTOR OOLITIC STONE CO.
BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA

DICKINSON—from Page 2

brother-in-law steadily climb the ladder of wealth to millionairesdom. "Wesson", he frequently said, "was the only boy I ever had about me who always did exactly as he was told without objections or tendering advice."

From the time of his arrival in Detroit he was a pew owner and regular attendant of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. For a year or two in the 60's he was a vestryman in St. Peter's Church, in the organization of which he took great interest.

HIS COUNTRY HOME

In the 40's he purchased a forty-acre farm in what was then Springwells Township, on both sides of Grand River avenue, and in 1851 he built a commodious frame residence on the south side of the avenue, between National and Harrison avenues. To this house he removed in 1851. The house was in the gothic style. It had immense double windows with diamond shaped panes, and green blinds. The posts which supported the verandas were natural oak logs with the bark on. The house itself stood within the shelter of three superb oak trees. Here he attended closely to his crops and store, and as in other realty investments, set out a large number of shade trees. He did not, however, disregard public affairs, and served a term as justice of the peace, and was largely influential in the organization of school district No. 5, and in building the first school house, which was situated on the south side of Grand River avenue, east of Twelfth street. He was also one of the promoters of the Grand River street car line.

He was very kind and accommodat-ing to his friends; and his two-wheeled cart, and in later days, his carriage, was always in use. On his way to and from church he would always stop and pick up a neighbor, being anxious, as he would say, to have "a full load." When the weather was inclement, he would drive around to the teachers of No. 5 and take them to school house and back, for there were no sidewalks in those days.

A GOOD LANDLORD

Mr. Dickinson was punctual in collecting rents from his tenants, but was very far from being a hard landlord. In the forties Marshall J. Bacon, a well known lawyer, was one of his tenants. Bacon was noted for several things. One was his prominence in temperance circles, in which his fiery red nose seemed strangely out of place, and his perpetual impecuniosity, which never allowed him to pay any rent. One time he was accosted by Mr. Dickinson, who said: "My dear Bacon, you have occupied my house for a whole year without paying one cent of rent. Now won't you remove to another house and give me a chance? If you rent another place for a year I may let you into my house again."

HIS HOME BURNED

At 5 o'clock in the morning of February 23, 1854, his house and outbuildings were burned to the ground, much of the furniture and all the contents of his barn, horses, cows, pigs, fowls, etc., were destroyed, only one chicken and two cows being saved. It was a bitter cold night, and the morning still colder, but very clear. Sunrise found Mrs. Dickinson sitting on the lawn in front of her flame-swept house, a babe of eight months in her arms and four or five other little ones nestled about her, for there was no friendly neighbor within half a mile to offer shelter.

Her little daughter, Harriet H., now the widow of Edward F. Baker, of this city, was carried from the fire some distance to the tollgate by R. W. King, then an active member of the old fire department. The other little ones, half clad, trotted over the frozen snow behind Mr. King to the hospitable toll-house, and were there warmed and given breakfast. Later Colonel Nathaniel Prouty sent the keys of the Buena Vista House, then vacant, and the family were sheltered there for six weeks until a little cottage was built in the orchard. In this cottage Mr. Dickinson lived with his family until the rear of the present brick house was ready for them in July.

The fire was evidently the work of an incendiary, and a man named Martin was arrested. The evidence at his trial showed that he had openly boasted of having set fire to the house, for which he had been promised \$20, but had not received the money. Suspicion fell upon a neighbor with whom Mr. Dickinson had some trifling difficulty, but it was never verified. Martin was sentenced to state prison for life, it is said, but was afterward pardoned. A brick house was then built on the site.

In the evening of his life, Mr. Dickinson was elected school inspector of the Ninth Ward in 1857, and was one of the board of commissioners on the plan of the city for 1869 to 1871, his colleagues being George S. Frost and J. N. Ford.

HIS CHILDREN

He died in his house on Grand River avenue on April 7, 1871, in his seventy-first year. Mrs. Dickinson died on June 17, 1887, in her seventy-seventh year. She was a devout church woman, and many years a trustee of St. Luke's Hospital. They had thirteen children, of whom the following survive: Wm. Cutler Dickinson, proprietor of the Fort Wyman Stock Farm, Rolla, Mo.; Horace Hills Dickinson, hardware merchant; Maria L., wife of Thomas S. McGraw; Harriet Holden, widow of Edward F. Baker, and Emily Hills Dickinson. The children except the first named, live in Detroit, and Miss Emily lives in the paternal homestead on Grand River avenue. Mr. Dickinson's living descendants are five children, eleven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. —Detroit Sunday News-Tribune

June 30, 1895

FRED BECKBISSINGER AT DETROIT CHAPTER MEET

At the Detroit Chapter meeting on April 15, President Wells I. Bennett recognized and welcomed Frederick Beckbissinger, a member of the Saginaw Valley Chapter, A.I.A., who was a guest at the dinner meeting and at Mr. Henry Hope's lecture at the Art Institute, that evening.

During Fred's stay in Detroit we had occasion to do some checking through the old files of the Michigan Society of Architects, which brought out some interesting facts.

The Society was organized in Detroit, as The Architects' Business Association, on June 1, 1914. Fred became a member as soon as it got out of the organizational stage and began to enlist members. This was on Oct. 29, 1914. The name was changed to Michigan Society of Architects at the second annual meeting at Hotel Statler in Detroit, on Feb. 3, 1916.

One reason for Fred's interest in this Detroit Chapter meeting was because of the exhibition and lecture on the work of Louis Sullivan, for whom Fred worked as a draftsman.

Fred was born in Saginaw, Dec. 19, 1870. He attended grade school in Saginaw, studied under private tutors, traveled and studied in many European countries and in the United States. He also took special work under Eliel Saarinen at the University of Michigan.

He worked in architects' offices in Chicago and Saginaw from 1885 to 1892, thence as designer through 1902. He did certain advanced architectural drafting, designing and supervision of industrial work through 1909. He had been practicing for some time when the Michigan Registration Act was passed, so he became registered by exemption on Sept. 2, 1915.

ANDY TO SCOTLAND

Our good friend and loyal director of the Detroit Chapter, AIA, and of the Michigan Society of Architects—not to mention Registration Board—Andrew R. Morison, will depart on June 24 for a visit to Europe.

This will be a "flying trip," as he expects to fly via Trans-Canada Airlines to Sydney, Nova Scotia, thence to Prestwick, Scotland—a mere 20 hours from his home in Detroit.

This will be the first time in many years that Andy has visited his relatives, abroad, and his many friends will wish him bon voyage. He expects to be back in Detroit by July 9.

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POSITIONS OPEN AT UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

POSITION: Teacher of Architectural Design, Delineation and History.

TYPE OF ASSIGNMENT: As a member of a teaching team, the appointee will be responsible for counselling, advising, and instructing a group of students in the Design, Delineation, and History of Architectural phases of their projects through individual and group conferences; or, the appointee will teach a creative introductory course in the Fundamentals of Architecture. The level will be determined in accordance with the relative training and experience of the appointee.

RANK: Instructor to Assistant Professor, dependent upon qualifications.

SALARY: Range dependent upon qualifications. Applicant to state desired starting salary.

AGE: 25 to 45 preferred.

PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION: Desired but not required.

EDUCATION: Bachelor's Degree required in Architecture. Master's Degree preferred.

EXPERIENCE: Teaching and/or practical experience in architecture or building construction.

DATE OF APPOINTMENT: 1 July, 1948 or as soon thereafter as available.

POSITION: Teacher of Architectural Construction and Structure.

TYPE OF ASSIGNMENT: As a member of a teaching team, the appointee will be responsible for counselling, advising, and instructing a group of students in the construction and structural phases of their projects through individual and group conference. The level will be determined in accordance with the relative training and experience of the appointee.

RANK: Instructor to Assistant Professor, dependent upon qualifications.

SALARY: Range dependent upon qualifications. Applicant to state desired starting salary.

AGE: 25 to 45 preferred.

PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION: Desired but not required.

EDUCATION: Bachelor's Degree required in Architecture, Architectural Engineering, or Building Construction. Master's Degree preferred.

EXPERIENCE: Teaching and/or practical experience in architecture or building construction.

DATE OF APPOINTMENT: 1 April, 1948 or as soon thereafter as available.

APPLICATION: Blank sent upon request.

PHOTO: 2 1/4 x 2 1/4 required with application.

SALARY BASIS: Per annum—12 Payments—30 days leave annually.

TENURE: In grade after 3-year probationary period.

RETIREMENT: State Teachers Retirement System compulsory, but with several options.

PRACTICE: Permitted and encouraged to an extent compatible with academic duties.

HEALTH: Certificate required upon appointment, and annually.

ENROLLMENT:	Lower Division	Upper Division
February 1948		123
Architecture Building	250	26
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Landscape		
Architecture	50	3
Art		14
Unclassified		6
	300	172

FACULTY: Full Time — 19
Part Time — 7

TEACHING METHOD: The Project Method is used with teaching teams of two men responsible for the counselling of the students in the several phases of an integrated program. For a detailed exposition, see: **HIGHER EDUCATION**, Vol. III, No. 10, January 15, 1947, **Project Method in Architecture at the University of Florida**, by William T. Arnett.

COMMUNITY DATA: Gainesville, "The University City," is located in the heart of the country made famous by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings in **THE YEARLING**. The city is connected by air, train, and bus to all points. It is 72 miles southwest of Jacksonville and 145 miles north of Tampa, and, because of the splendid roads, two of the world's finest beaches, St. Augustine and Daytona, may be reached in from 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 hours.

The cultural opportunities are varied. Since the war there has been a growing tendency for important visitors to make the University a mecca when coming to Florida. The growth of the University to approximately nine thousand students has enabled an increase and diversification of cultural influences. The warm temperate winters are conducive to creative work and provide suitable environment for development. Community facilities are those which might be expected in a college town of 15 to 20 thousand.

The recreational opportunities are many. There are several fine public swimming pools in the immediate vicinity, and handball, tennis and golf may be played the year around. Hunting and fishing are considered the nation's best.

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INDIANA SOCIETY'S MEET

The Indiana Society of Architects, a Chapter of The American Institute of Architects, has scheduled an important meeting in South Bend on April 30 and May 1, 1948. On May 1 the attendants will be the guests of the University of Notre Dame, where an excellent and inspiring program has been arranged.

A business meeting will be held at the Oliver Hotel in South Bend Friday afternoon, April 30. That evening there will be a cocktail party and banquet.

Saturday morning at Notre Dame there will be an address on "Reconstruction of French Cities" by Michael Aime, who is engaged in this work in France. Also at this session: "Totalitarian and Democratic Architecture" by Aladar Olgyay, and "Ecclesiastical Architecture in Europe During the Past Decade" by Victor Olgyay.

The luncheon Saturday will be addressed by Father Cavanaugh, President of Notre Dame, and others at the University.

The meeting will conclude with a conducted tour of the University and the viewing of exhibits.

Edward E. Simmons, of Indianapolis, is Program Chairman and Roy A. Worden is in charge of local arrangements at South Bend.

A special invitation has been issued Michigan Architects. Ladies are cordially invited to attend.

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Re "THE OWNER"

In this column, April 6 issue I wrote
an article entitled, "The Owner." It has
produced some comment, part of which
will be quoted from here.

Henry Manley, of the H. A. Manley
Marble Co., writes in part:

"In order to minimize this cost, why
not have the architect present with his
plan a survey of the quantities cover-
ing each trade? The time spent in tak-
ing off quantities is the most expen-
sive operation in bidding. Doing it this
way, the preparation of the quantity
survey could be included in the archi-
tect's fee."

An architect from out of the state
writes, "For the love of Pete do not
quote me or I'll get hell from those of
my own profession when I meet them
at Salt Lake City at the A.I.A. Conven-
tion." He goes on to say that the cost
of taking off quantities on jobs which
do not go ahead is absorbed some-
where, so why worry about it? But he
then goes on, "The business-like man-
ner would be to have each contractor
paid for such service on a percentage
basis of the job when he turns in his
bid. Why not? No one is doing very
much of anything for nothing, except
the architect. All the contractors need
is a lot of stockability and some in-
dependence. Have they the courage to
do it?"

These are not all the comments, but
are all we shall publish at this time.

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The United State Plywood Corpora-
tion recently introduced Korina in this
country. The logs, available in large
quantities produce veneers with high
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and quality.

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logs resembles the scarce and higher-
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ture making. It also may be stained to
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ble fidelity. This is presently impor-
tant because so much of our native
white oak timber has been acquired by
whiskey distillers for stave and barrel
manufacture.

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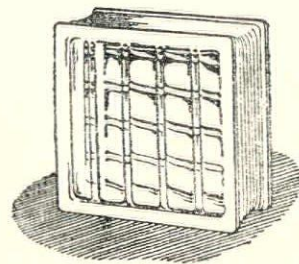
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